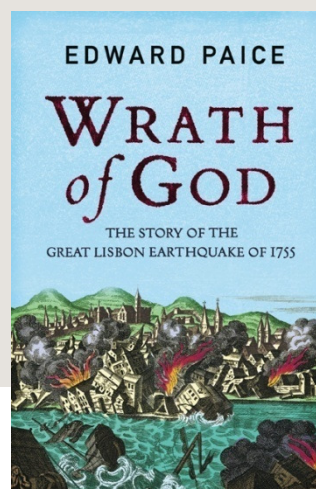


Title	Wrath of God
Author	Edward Paice
ISBN	9781847246233
Imprint	Quercus
Binding	Hardcover with jacket
Extent	320 pages
Dimensions	234 x 153mm
RRP	\$39.95
Release Date	November 2008



Description

Just after half past nine on the morning of Sunday 1 November 1755, the end of the world came to the city of Lisbon. On a day that had begun with blue skies and gentle warmth, Portugal's proud capital was struck by a massive earthquake.

After a brief, two minute tremor came six minutes of horror as Lisbon swayed 'like corn in the wind before the avalanches of descending masonry hid the ruins under a cloud of dust'. A third tremor shook most of the buildings still standing to the ground, causing catastrophic loss of life. Lisbon had been struck by a seismic disturbance estimated at 8.7 on the Richter scale – more powerful than the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. An hour later, riverine Lisbon and the Algarve coast were engulfed by a series of tsunamis. In areas of the city unaffected by the waves, fires raged for six days, completing the destruction of Europe's fourth-largest city. By the time it was all over, 60,000 souls had perished and 85% of Lisbon's buildings, plus an unimaginable wealth of cultural treasures, had been destroyed by quake, fire or water.

The earthquake had a searing impact on the European psyche. Theologians and philosophers were baffled by this awesome manifestation of the anger of God. For Portugal itself, despite an ambitious program of reconstruction, the quake ushered in a period of decline.

Drawing on primary sources, Edward Paice paints a vivid picture of a city and society changed forever by a day of terror. He describes in thrilling detail the quake itself and its immediate aftermath, and is interested just as much in its political, economic and cultural consequences. *Wrath of God* is a gripping account from a master writer of a natural disaster that had a transformative impact on European society.

Sales Points

- The forgotten story of a devastating natural disaster and its impact
- Will appeal to a popular history audience as well as to those with a specific interest in the 18th century
- Fascinating historical comparisons with such recent events as 9/11 and the 2005 tsunami

Author Profile

Edward Paice is the author of *Lost Lion of Empire: The Life of 'Cape-to-Cairo' Grogan* (2001) and *Tip and Run: The Untold Tragedy of the Great War in Africa* (2007). Both books received widespread critical acclaim.